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POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

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USSR REPORT
POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

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INTERNATIONAL

RENEWED AMERICAN INTEREST IN ASEAN EXAMINED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 85 p 5

[Article by Veniamin Shurygin under the rubric "Commentator's Column": "They Are Spreading the Nets"]

[Text] A specialized organization has been created under the aegis of the Washington administration between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)--the Center for Technological Exchange. A number of leading American corporations as well as private and government organizations of the association's member-countries are included in it. The goal of the organization is to promote the creation of more favorable conditions for American companies in comparison with their Western European, Japanese and other competitors.

President Reagan has called the creation of the center as the most important initiative of the American private sector in consolidating the presence of the United States in Southeast Asia. And this is not accidental. Recent years have seen Washington's increased interest in ASEAN, which includes Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei. These countries, where more than 250 million people live, have begun to play a noticeable role in the U.S. economy. From here, for example, come 90 percent of the American imports of natural rubber, more than 70 percent of the tin, 20 percent of the tea and 10 percent of the oil. The rich natural resources, cheap labor force and broad market for the sale of goods make the countries of Southeast Asia an advantageous site for capital investment.

An important role in Washington's Asian military-political strategy has been assigned to the ASEAN states. They are designated to become a connecting link between the Far East-Pacific Ocean region and the Persian Gulf region, which has been called a zone of "vital interest" to the United States. The U.S. military bases in the Philippines along with bases in Japan and on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean serve as primary staging grounds for operations of the interventionist "rapid deployment forces." The military presence of the United States in Thailand is increasing and the deliveries of American weapons to other countries of the region are growing.

All this serves to more strongly attach the ASEAN countries to the military chariot of the Pentagon and to enlist them in the service of the hegemonistic

imperialist aspirations of the United States. It is namely for this goal that American transnational corporations as well are spreading their nets, as is evidenced by the creation of a new specialized organization whose aim is to be introduced as deeply as possible into the economy of the ASEAN states.

The increased activity of American big business in ASEAN cannot but attract the attention of the progressive, peaceloving society of those countries, speaking out for the transformation of Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability and cooperation.

CSO: 1807/181

EGYPTIAN 'OPEN DOOR' ECONOMIC POLICY CRITICIZED

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 30 Oct 84 p 3

[Article by V. Mikhaylov: "Infisah: The Bitter Fruit"]

[Text] Recently, in Egypt, one increasingly encounters publications in which the authors, evaluating the results of the economic development of the country, are arriving at sad conclusions. They establish the fact that, during the past decade, the balance in the growth of the industrial sectors has been broken, and the stagnation and decline of the national industry under the pressure of private capital and Western firms and companies is observed. All of this is the consequence of the "Infisah" or "Open Door" policy, which gave foreign capital the freedom of importation and permitted them to deal directly with local companies, and to by-pass the foreign trade monopoly. Foreign capital has been granted customs concessions and is not subject to nationalization. Besides, "Infisah" has completely freed the hands of the private entrepreneur and for all practical purposes has legalized profiteering and the black market.

The creators of the "Open Door" policy, who expected industrial development and the revitalization of the economy, had badly miscalculated. As is known, the capitalist is not at all interested in investing in long-term projects. He needs his profit now. This is why he directs money into trade, smuggling, building houses, profiteering in real estate and tourism.

Recently, Mohammad Abdel Isah, a fellow at the ARE [Arab Republic of Egypt] National Institute for Planning, wrote: "As a result of implementing the policies of 'economic liberalism' the social contrasts became sharper. The development of the services sector took place at the expense of agriculture and industry. The opportunities for capital investment have decreased, and the dependence on the Western countries has increased in all areas."

This dependence has especially increased in the area of foreign sources of finance. By means of loans, the Western countries attempt to change the structure of the Egyptian economy, as well as the political course of the country. The "aid" from the United States, the EEC [European Common Market] countries, and international financial organizations under American control promoted the increased importation of food, the exodus of manpower, and encouraged the development of a light industry that was dependent on the West.

The newspaper ASH-SHAHAB has written with alarm about Washington's constant and overt pressure on Egypt. It noted that the purpose of this dictate is to make the ARE follow an economic and political course pleasing to the United States. The newspaper happened to get a hold of a report from the American Embassy in Cairo. It contains not only an admission of the very fact of pressure, but also recommendations to increase the pressure on Cairo, so as to direct the Egyptian economy into a route that best reflects the interests of the United States and the international monopolies.

The United States demanded, in the form of an ultimatum, that the ARE consult Washington on all questions regarding its economical policy. In other words, in exchange for the "aid," they insist on their "right" to interfere in Egypt's internal affairs.

More and more often, the Egyptian press is beginning to compare the fruit of its collaboration with the Soviet Union in the development of Egypt's industry and economy with the damage which the country is suffering as a result of American "aid." Having reminded [its readers] that such industrial giants as the Aswan Dam, (Heluan) Metallurgical Combine, the Nag-Khammadi complex for aluminum production, and other facilities were built in the ARE with Soviet assistance, the newspaper ASH-SHAHAB writes: "In the ARE, everything that was built with Soviet assistance became a 100-percent Egyptian property. As far as the fruit of the wonderful American "aid" is concerned, it is: tens of Western banks, Egyptian markets flooded by foreign goods to the detriment of those produced domestically, factories producing soft drinks, an army of investors and adventurers, not to mention the tragedy in morals and manners, to which the thick volumes in the general prosecutor's file attests."

The observers note that currently, Egypt is rejecting the Western dictate more decisively and is attempting to achieve a more independent development of its economy. Despite the difficulties, the state sector proved its leadership role in the economic life of the country by producing 94.4 percent of the entire Egyptian export last year. The report of the Central Control-Auditing Administration at the ARE Counsel of Ministers, excerpts from which were published by the newspaper AL-AKHALI, emphasized that definite corrections in the "Infitah" policy have begun during recent years. At the same time, the authors of the document call for more effective measures toward a basic revision of the "Open Door" policy, stabilizing the ARE economy, and eliminating its dependence on monopolies of the United States and other Western countries.

Time will show how the Egyptian economy will develop further. Meanwhile, it is clear: the 10-year long "Open Door" policy has not done any good to the Egyptian people.

12404

CSO: 1807/91

INTERNATIONAL

PAKISTAN ACCUSES DRA OF AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, AIR RAID

LD052211 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Our next commentary is by Aleksandr Malik. This is what he writes:

On 29 September an explosion occurred outside Spinsar Hotel in the Pakistani population center Trimangal. Pakistan's media hastened to present the incident as a result of an air raid launched by Afghan planes. The Western media picked up these sensations. Western periodicals and radio stations joined in a campaign, accusing Afghanistan of having violated Pakistan's border. However, the hullabaloo did not last long, only till the time when foreign newsmen emerged on the scene of the explosion. And what did they discover? They established without a shade of doubt that the traces left by the blast pointed to a special explosive device, not to a bomb dropped by a plane. That was surely a gangster method exposing the practices of Afghan counterrevolutionaries trained by American instructors on how to handle explosives at special centers in the northwest of Pakistan and around it. Such centers were also set up in the vicinity of Trimangal. The motives of the terrorists are also clear enough. The world media, including Pakistani, have written more than once that the squaring of accounts among Afghan counterrevolutionary groupings became a common procedure just as among the American Mafia. This argument is particularly convincing in view of the fact that the Spinsar Hotel turned into a sort of a headquarters for a number of Afghan counterrevolutionary organizations.

However, what really matters is the question of what prompts these false sensations. What prompts the systematic hallucinations of Pakistani authorities who are literally haunted by the vision of Afghan planes violating Pakistani airspace? It is not difficult to give an answer to this question: Islamabad is using the screen of falsehoods and slander against Democratic Afghanistan and its friends to cover up its complicity in the international outrage practiced in regard to Afghanistan by the United States for over 6 years now.

It is also symbolic that Pakistani officials resort to distorting facts and to juggling with them in an attempt to make Afghanistan responsible for the lack of practical results in the efforts to resolve the Afghan question. In this light, it is easy to explain why the sensation connected with the alleged bombing of Trimangal emerged on the eve of the 39th UN General Assembly session where Islamabad made another attempt to revive the hullabaloo involving the situation in Afghanistan. This is how sensations are born and how they burst like soap bubbles.

CSO: 1812/79

INTERNATIONAL

SPECIAL UNITS OF PAKISTAN ARMY ALLEGEDLY OPERATING IN DRA

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Nov 84 p 3

[Article by Colonel A. Ivanov: "In a Shameful Role"]

[Text] Pakistan is actively participating in an undeclared war against Afghanistan.

More and more evidence is appearing recently incontrovertibly attesting to a widening of armed intervention by the forces of international imperialism and reaction in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The Afghan people must build a new life under conditions of the seventh year of undeclared war against it, inspired ideologically and directly organized by the USA and its allies in the aggressive NATO block, the military administration of Pakistan and other countries unfriendly to the DRA. In attempting to establish conditions for the overthrow of the people's power in Afghanistan, the ruling circles of these countries are openly conducting a policy of political terrorism against the young republic, sending into its territory gangs of bandits, organized and reared by American dollars and drilled at the many centers and areas of military training in Pakistan, as well as in Iran, the USA and China. More and more facts regarding the direct participation of Western states and reactionary regimes dependent upon them in implementing acts of terror and subversion against the DRA are becoming the property of publicity.

With the agreement of the Islamabad administration, the territory of Pakistan has turned into the principal base from which bandit raids are made on sovereign Afghanistan. Dozens of organizations and groups of Afghan counter-revolutionaries, led by professional adventurers, murderers and foreign agents, have built criminal nests in Pakistan. More than a hundred training centers and posts for Afghan counter-revolutionaries have been established here in which they master the "science" of terror, subversion and pillage under the leadership of Pakistani, American and other instructors. Transshipping bases for arms have been established on Pakistani territory. These arms are received from Western countries for equipping detachments of bandits that are formed and sent into the DRA for the struggle against the people's power. The Pakistani special services control the formation of caravans with arms and ammunition which are conveyed across the Pakistan-Afghani frontier for gangs operating in various provinces of the republic.

Airplanes and helicopters of the Pakistani air force systematically violate the airspace of the DRA. On 5 October of this year, for example, several Pakistani helicopters intruded into the DRA's airspace in the region of the inhabited locality of Barikot (Kunar Province) and fired on and damaged two Afghan helicopters which were on the airfield. On 21 October, in the same region, an Afghan helicopter transporting wounded was shot down by fire from a large caliber machine gun on Pakistani territory.

Pakistani secret agents and reconnaissance and subversive terrorist groups from the personnel of the army units and border guard forces of Pakistan are regularly infiltrated into the territory of the DRA. Thus, on 25 July of this year, a group of 40 Pakistani servicemen from the "commando" brigade staff was put across the Pakistani-Afghan border in the region of the inhabited locality of Terri-Mangal in order to carry out subversive and terrorist activities and to render assistance to the bands of Afghan counter-revolutionaries operating in the region of Kabul. At a press conference held in Kabul in October with local and foreign journalists, Zulfikar Khaidar, a senior captain in the Pakistani army's intelligence service who had been arrested by the DRA's security organs, was introduced and he told about his espionage activity on Afghan territory. As became known, the joint intelligence administration of Pakistan's defense ministry has recently been taking active steps to increase the number of reconnaissance groups infiltrated into the DRA that are led by officers who have had special training.

The aforementioned facts constitute only an insignificant part of the dark deeds carried out on Afghan soil by the Pakistani militarists, inspired by their foreign patrons. But these facts are sufficient to understand the sort of danger for the Afghan people that is presented by the policy and practice of the ruling circles in Islamabad who have conceived the idea of warming their hands at the so-called "Afghan question."

It is no longer a secret for anyone that Pakistan, by fanning the flames of an undeclared war against its neighboring sovereign state, is pursuing the goals of self-interest. These consist in obtaining the maximum political, economic and military aid from its patrons - the USA first and foremost, as well as its allies in the aggressive NATO block and other regimes inimical to democratic Afghanistan. This aid is nothing other than payment for Islamabad's contribution to attempts to realize schemes, which are as criminal as they are illusory, to stifle the Afghan revolution. In point of fact, Islamabad appears in the sordid and shameful role of a mercenary of international imperialism and reaction.

With the assistance of the USA's embassy adviser in Islamabad, the Pakistani authorities recently organized a trip to Washington for the "leaders" of the Afghan counterrevolutionary group, "The Islamic Union of Mujahiddin of Afghanistan," A.R. Sayef and G. Khakmatiar, in order for them to meet with the president of the USA and other highly placed American public figures. In their congratulatory messages addressed to R. Reagan in connection with his reelection to the presidential post, the leaders of the Afghan counter-revolution expressed their gratitude for the comprehensive support of their

subversive activity against the people of Afghanistan, as well as their hope for further continuation and expansion of American aid.

Recent events indicate that the military administration of Pakistan does not intend to take a sober view of matters. As before, they are implementing a policy of expanding interference in the internal affairs of the DRA. Further pressure with respect to the situation regarding the so-called "Afghan question" is apparent, the activities of Afghan counterrevolutionaries from Pakistani territory are ensured and anti-Afghan actions are increasing.

Islamabad is dragging out negotiations on regularizing the situation about Afghanistan, which are being conducted through Sr. Cordoves, a representative of the UN general secretary, in an attempt to utilize them for putting pressure on the Afghan government. At the same time, by means of increasingly greater recourse to distortion and juggling of facts, as well as to lies and slander, the Pakistani authorities are attempting to place responsibility for the situation in Afghanistan and for the lack of practical results in the matter of normalizing the situation regarding the DRA on the Afghan government and the Soviet Union. For this purpose, in the past three months alone, Pakistan has repeatedly sent the Afghan side "notes of protest" against violations of Pakistani airspace and bombings of Pakistani territory by airplanes of the DRA that have ostensibly occurred.

The Pakistani authorities have gone to the extent of direct forgery in trying to pretend that the explosion which occurred on 29 September near the "Spinzar" hotel in the inhabited locality of Terri-Mangal was the result of alleged bombardments by airplanes of the DRA. In the meantime, it became known that this explosion was the work of one of the Afghan counterrevolutionary organizations, carried out against a competing group. The fact that the explosion was caused by a special mechanism and not by bombardment was also confirmed by foreign correspondents who visited the place where the incident occurred.

But persisting in their anti-Afghan strivings, the Islamabad authorities have launched a campaign directed at disinformation for the world community. In this plan, an agreement was reached regarding the opening in Peshawar of branch offices of the CIA-financed subversive radio stations, "Liberty" and "Free Europe."

The propaganda sensation is needed by the Pakistani authorities and their foreign patrons as a cover for further interference in the internal affairs of democratic Afghanistan. The training of invaders in Pakistani army study centers, in particular, is being expanded. Anti-Afghan propaganda is being deliberately conducted among Pakistani soldiers, instilling in them the idea of the "inevitability of war" with the DRA and the readiness of the USA to render military assistance to Pakistan in that event.

All of this indicates that the Pakistani militarists are preparing further aggressive acts against the courageous people of the Democratic Republic of

Afghanistan. But all those who are eager to subject the Afghan revolution to new tests should be reminded that not one similar attempt has ended in failure. The people's power in Afghanistan continues to grow stronger every day and there is no doubt that it will defeat all aggressive plans, wherever they originate.

12249

CSO: 1807/123

INTERNATIONAL

SEYCHELLES' CHANGES DUE TO SOCIALIST ORIENTATION DESCRIBED

Moscow ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY in English No 6, Nov-Dec 84 pp 51-53

[Article by Arsen Ganiyev]

[Excerpts]

"The paradise and the Seychelles have two things in common: both are beautiful, and everybody wants to go there," these are the opening words of the travel guide I bought at a second-hand book stall in Antananarivo. It was a promising beginning, but what followed was even better: "For those wanting to visit the Seychelles, there are no obstacles or restrictions." It turned out that the only exception was that visitors from "communist countries" needed entry visas...

Fortunately this booklet, printed on glossy paper and richly illustrated, is hopelessly out of date! Printed, it seems, not so long ago in the French city of Boulogne, it has been made obsolete by radical changes in the life of a 65,000 people inhabiting a hundred or so islands (although not all of them are inhabited) right in the centre of the Indian Ocean.

The awakening of the islanders' political activity and their involvement in the struggle for independence roughly began in 1963, when two local parties, the Democratic Party (PD) and the United Party of the Seychelles' People (PRPS), were formed.

In July 1976 a new sovereign state, the Republic of the Seychelles, appeared on the political map. However, the country's first President, PD leader G. Mancham, was not in power for long. On June 5, 1977 a group of PRPS activists, supported by the people and the police, staged a lightning coup d'etat which overthrew the neocolonialist pro-Western regime. Before night fell it was announced that PRPS Chairman France Albert René had been appointed President of the republic, and that a new cabinet had been formed.

The following day I was scheduled to meet A. Baudouin, Director of the Seychelles Information Service. It takes time to get used to driving on the wrong side of the steep mountain roads. As if feeling my uneasiness in the seat where the driver in continental Europe normally sits, the middle-aged taxi driver said in fluent English that he had learned to tell passengers from countries where there is right-hand traffic by their jumpiness. Then he easily switched to equally fluent French. I asked Davis, as that was his name, where he had learned the two languages.

"On the beach," he replied seriously. "We were six children in the family. Our parents could barely make both ends meet, and there were only three secondary schools on the island. Since tuition fees were high, most of the pupils were from private primary schools, not the likes of me, who finished a primary school where tuition was free. From the age of twelve I sold shells to tourists on the beach. Now things have changed. My youngest child is going to kindergarten, and the two older boys to school. The government provides free school uniforms, textbooks and hot meals. It goes without saying that tuition is free. Things certainly have changed for the better. My brother and I have even scratched together enough money to buy this Peugeot. Sure, it's a jalopy, but it earns us a living."

When I told Davis where I came from, he expressed unconcealed surprise that Soviets can speak French. Something had given him the idea that they speak only English abroad. When I was getting out of his taxi, he wished me something in his native Creole.

From my meetings with local journalists I gleaned some interesting facts about the history of this language which emerged during the early stages of the island's colonisation by French settlers who brought African slaves with them. Uprooted from many different parts of the continent, the slaves could communicate only in the language of their masters, Old French. Since no one thought of teaching the slaves to read and write, they picked up the new language by ear, distorting and giving new meanings to its words in the process. Also important was the fact that the Africans wanted to communicate without their white masters understanding them.

Before the René government took office, English and French were the official languages, with Creole, which had neither grammar nor orthography, relegated to the status of a "local dialect" used by common people in everyday oral speech. Pupils caught using it at school were punished.

The country's new leaders took a firm stand against the undue admiration, inherited from the past, for all things foreign, that is Western. In 1977 they lifted the ban on the use of Creole in schools, and in 1982 Creole was adopted as the language of instruction and as an independent language course beginning in the first grade, with English and French appearing on the curricula somewhat later.

In July 1981, the 3rd Congress of country's ruling party, the Seychelles People's Progressive Front, formerly the PRPS, adopted a resolution On the Language Problem, under which Creole received the status of the first official or national language, with English the first and French the second foreign language. Official speeches by the president and other leaders are now made in Creole.

In the offices of the Information Service and the Government newspaper *Nation* close by, a businesslike, unhurried atmosphere reigns. A. Baudouin, Director of the Information Service, told me that a few days after assuming power, F. A. René made a keynote declaration in which he stressed that the Republic of the Seychelles had chosen the socialist road of development with due account of the country's characteristic features, and intended to lay the foundations of a new society by gradually implementing several political, social and economic measures. In the initial stages, the most important of them were involving the people in active political life, the provision of housing to the poorest strata, raising the living standards of the working people, the accelerated development of agriculture and fisheries, economic planning and strict government control of the economy.

Now on this road of progressive change, the Seychelles people are doing their utmost to bring the attainment of these goals closer. Given the historically short period of time, the changes are striking: working people are now far better off. Seven years ago the wage of a plantation worker was less than today's old-age pensions.

In 1983 the Ministry of Education and Information was allocated 80 million rupees, or one-fifth of the state budget. Today more than 3,000 young Seychellians between four and six attend 38 kindergartens, and it is planned to open another ten. Twenty thousand pupils get their school uniforms and textbooks free, and free hot meals made at six catering centres.

He went on to say that the republic does have unresolved problems, of which our President René sincerely spoke on several occasions. They include the need to import considerable quantities of food, economic miscalculations and, alas, theft of public property. However, the necessary conclusions have been drawn and necessary steps taken to remedy the situation.

"There must also be those who are opposed to radical changes on the Seychelles", I observed.

"President René said in one of his public statements that our armed forces will not permit any counterrevolutionary revolts," replied A. Baudouin. "One of the first and most important political steps of the republic's new leadership was to create the Seychelles liberation army, which can defend the gains of the people. In November 1981, the world media reported about the invasion attempt by a group of international cutthroats backed by racist South Africa and the reactionary quarters of several imperialist countries. But the people and army of the Seychelles were on guard, and the mercenaries were forced to flee.

"Our government pursues a foreign policy of positive non-alignment, non-interference, friendship and cooperation with all countries, except racist and fascist regimes", Baudouin concluded.

M. G. Orlov, the Soviet Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Seychelles, had this to say on the subject:

"On major international issues, the Seychelles leadership acts together with the socialist and most non-aligned countries, supporting initiatives to strengthen peace and security, to return to detente, and to end the arms race. Like these countries, on African issues the Seychelles stand for support for national liberation movements and the struggle against apartheid, as well as for the complete demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean and its transformation into a zone of peace."

INTERNATIONAL

REASONS FOR NIGERIAN MILITARY COUP ANALYZED

Moscow ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY in English No 6, Nov-Dec 84 pp 41-44

[Text]

After more than four years of civilian rule in Nigeria, the African country with the largest population (about 90 million), the military have come back after toppling the administration of President Alhaji Shehu Shagari. The reasons, circumstances and consequences of the coup are explained by Lev Pribytkovsky, Chief of the Sector of Nigeria, Institute of African Studies, USSR Academy of Sciences, Cand. Sc. (Hist.); Leonid Gheveling, Senior Researcher, Cand. Sc. (Hist.); Vladimir Novikov, our former correspondent in West Africa, and Yuri Prolomov, who succeeded him.

Almost a year ago, in the early morning of December 31, 1983, a military coup engineered by the army command took place in Nigeria. It was probably the most bloodless coup in Africa. Meeting practically no resistance, military detachments occupied several government offices and the airport in the capital. In Calabar, Port-Harcourt, Benin and most of the other big cities, the military either did not leave their barracks or, as was the case in Kano, arrested several top political leaders, thereby supporting the "Lagos initiative".

All political parties were banned, and several Articles of the 1979 Constitution relating to the system of government bodies were suspended. A Supreme Military Council (SMC) of 19 members, two of whom were civilians and the rest representatives of the command of all arms of the service, assumed legislative functions. The SMC appointed members of the other two basic bodies of military administration—the Federal Executive Council (FEC) which plays the role of the Cabinet of Ministers; and the National State Council (NSC), which

consists of nine members of the SMC and the military governors of all the country's 19 States, who led the state executive councils. Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, born in Daura (the State of Kaduna), 41 on the eve of the coup became Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, and Chairman of the SMC, FEC and NSC. He has been described as a "reasonable" and "well-balanced" man, not inclined to hasty decisions, and having a good education. Buhari studied at the Nigerian Military College, then graduated from "Monce" (Great Britain) and had his probation period in India and the USA. In the mid-1970s he was for a time head of logistics and transportation in the Nigerian army, and up to the December coup commanded a division.

General Buhari also has enough experience in political and administrative leadership. Under the military government of M. Muhammed—O. Obasanjo, which handed over power to civilian rule in 1979, he was concurrently military governor of one of the States, Federal Commissar (Minister) of Oil and Energetics, Secretary of the Chief Military Department, and Chairman of the Nigerian National Oil Corporation.

Buhari's closest associates, many of whom are former members of the previous military government, were appointed to key government posts in the Federal bodies of power, the States, and also to top positions in the armed forces and police command. To consolidate the army and ensure that it would provide firm support for the regime, the Nigeria's new leaders appointed the commanders of all the four divisions and the artillery corps to the Supreme Military Council, and immediately promoted 110 senior officers.

It should be pointed out, however, that the regime's support does not come only from the army. In the initial days of the coup, General Buhari called on state officials to closely cooperate with the military leaders on his first days in office. Moreover, the new administration said it was ready to appoint top officials, who had not stained themselves with corruption and were not linked with political parties, to the FEC and the State administrations. This promise was fulfilled, and the FEC now includes 11 civilian and only seven military members.

The authorities are at the same time seeking to widen their social support by attracting the influential stratum of traditional rulers and some groups of the entrepreneurial bourgeoisie. Finally, the support of the trade unions and certain other public organisations, which were not affected by the ban on the party and political activities, is supposed to help consolidate the regime.

UNTENABLE "MODELS"

A military coup in itself is nothing new for Nigeria. Since January 15, 1966, when the army assumed power for the first time, there have been four military coups. As has already been mentioned, in 1979 the military voluntarily left the political scene. In the general elections, Shehu Shagari—candidate of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) which reflected the interests of primarily the big merchant and industrial bourgeoisie and the Muslim upper crust of the northern part of the country—became President of Nigeria. What impelled the military to "come back"? How did it happen that the Shagari government, which was in power for 51 months and seemed to be constantly shoring up its positions, was overthrown literally within several hours?

It should be pointed out that the army as a whole regarded the transfer of power to civilian government in 1979 following elections in which candidates from five political parties represented actually different ethno-regional groups as a kind of experiment. Even at that time, many people questioned the stability of the future government, taking into account the experience of the "First Republic".

Although its candidate won the Presidency, the NPN did not obtain an absolute majority in Parliament, and was compelled to enter into an alliance with the Nigerian People's Party (leader—N. Azikiwe, base—eastern States). Simultaneously, it began to actively "erode" the opposi-

tion, successfully convincing several opposition MPs to cross the floor to its benches. In order to finally have a free hand, the leaders of the ruling party then torpedoed its alliance with the Nigerian People's Party.

Resorting to intimidation, blackmail, bribes and "legally substantiating" its actions by decisions passed by the court and the Federal Election Commission which were fully under its control, the NPN created a situation in Nigeria which guaranteed it a "convincing" victory in the 1983 general elections. Shagari who was again nominated for the Presidency, received four million votes more than his rival O. Awalowo, leader of the Nigerian Unity Party (whose base is the western States, inhabited mainly by Yoruba). The ruling party secured the majority for itself in both houses of Parliament and its candidates were elected governors in 12 out of the 19 States (in 1979—seven).

However, the success of the NPN was illusory. Complaints were heard everywhere about the falsified election results. In some States this practice was so odious that election results had to be annulled. The election campaign outrages were another negative factor. Clashes between the followers of the different parties, along with assassinations and arson, swept Oyo, Ondo, Kwara, Plateau and several other States. Some of the opposition parties refused to recognise the official election results. In some places, like Gongola State, attempts were made to boycott them. More often than not the legitimacy of the results declaring certain candidates elected was officially challenged by their rivals, and also by leaders of the trade union centre—the Nigerian Congress of Labour—and other organisations.

It should be pointed out that certain opposition leaders were not up to the mark either. They regarded their personal political ambitions and narrow interests of the parties they represented as more important than the national and state interests. The appeal by certain opposition leaders to create a united front as a counter-balance to the National Party of Nigeria evoked no response among Shagari's chief rivals (O. Awalowo and N. Azikiwe), each of whom wanted to become President himself. The opposition remained divided and unable to oppose the onslaught of the ruling party.

The 1983 general elections demonstrated that the broad masses of Nigerians still had no control of the state machinery, which was still firmly

in the grip of a comparatively narrow range of pro-bourgeois politicians. One of the important conditions for the December 1983 coup was the mechanical transfer to Nigerian soil of western political institutions and standards which did not harmonise with the development of local social relations. In view of the fact that the processes of class formation and national consolidation were still incomplete, the prospects for the development of a multi-party system cast in the bourgeois mould were rather limited. The Nigerian parties which formally, in conformity with the Constitution, were denied the opportunity to be formed on a purely ethnic basis, failed, due to objective reasons, to find a broad and constant socio-class base; instead there were temporary alliances between different pressure groups and support for personal friends of this or that leader, as well as political clientele.

The experience of the "Second Republic" (1979-1983) showed that the system of presidential power similar to that of the United States is alien to political life of Nigeria, just as was the Westminster model (the embodiment of the British Parliament) which led the "First Republic" to the collapse in 1966.

The political domination of the National Party of Nigeria, which was "brilliantly confirmed" by the 1983 elections, was in fact an illusion.

The failure of the NPN's policy and the inability of the NPN government to effectively manage the country's economy were the main reasons for its political collapse.

ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

The "oil boom" which lasted for almost a decade enabled Nigeria to become one of the leading developing countries with the fastest economic growth rates. However, this made the economy dependent on the world oil market, since exports of liquid fuel accounted for about 95 per cent of Nigeria's foreign currency revenues, and over 80 per cent of its total income. That is why the drop in crude oil demand as of 1981 because of the economic crisis in the West plus the deliberate "anti-OPEC" policy of several imperialist powers proved a catastrophe for Nigeria. Oil exports fell by 50 per cent. According to the estimates of the London-based *African Business* magazine, in 1979 Nigeria had a positive balance of payments of 1.46 billion Nairas, whereas by the end of 1983, there was a deficit of 3.98 billion Nairas. As of February 1983, Nigeria's gold and hard currency reser-

ves were no more than 900 million Nairas, i. e., approximately equal to a one month cost of imports. According to different estimates, the country's external debt reached from 7.7 to 8.5 billion Nairas against 1.13 billion Nairas four years earlier, while internal loans amounted to 22 billion Nairas.

The lopsided orientation towards oil to the detriment of the development of other sectors of the economy also resulted in Nigeria's greater dependence on imports of ready-made goods, foods, and industrial raw materials. According to statements by the new military leaders, by the end of the Shagari rule, almost 70 per cent of Nigeria's income was spent to pay for the imports. The 1982 emergency measures to limit imports and reduce the balance of payments deficit, did not bring the desired results. The companies linked with the TNCs continued to bring the materials they needed from abroad, instead of making use of local ones. The country continued to build auto-assembly plants and the electric energy industry factories which sometimes depended on imports of up to 90 per cent of various parts and units. At the same time, due to the shortage of semi-finished goods and spare parts, considerable production capacities were idle. In summer 1983, up to 60 per cent of those previously employed in industry found themselves fully or partially unemployed. Against the background of the overall business slump, inflation increased by 70 per cent, the price of staple goods and food doubled, on the average, and that of some commodities even tripled. For several months the government was unable to pay the salaries.

The plans which envisaged a 3 per cent annual increase in agricultural production were not implemented. This was partially explained by a reduction of budget spending on development of the sector, and also by a severe drought which struck the northern areas of the country.

Speaking on the draft budget just a day before the coup, Shagari admitted that the GDP had dropped by 4.4 per cent in 1983.

The discontent of the working people and the middle strata over the deterioration of their material situation, and the loss of confidence in the government reached the critical point when it became clear that the government, unable to produce a clear-cut plan to save the economy from collapse, began taking "panic" measures: it concluded agreements with more than 60 international banks on re-financing the \$2 billion debt, star-

ted negotiations with the International Monetary Fund on a \$2 billion credit for three years and an additional loan of \$500 million, and simultaneously talks with the IBRD on loan for economic restructuring. However, the attempts to get aid from the West on terms acceptable to Nigeria were futile. Nigerians looked sceptically at Shagari's new promises to rectify the situation, because of previous actions by the civilian administrations, bad management, embezzlement of public funds and corruption which had penetrated all its echelons.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the actions of the NPN government were almost completely based on bribery. The regime's weak socio-political foundations were toppled not only by the objective manifestations of economic crisis, but also by the plunder on the part of middlemen and all kinds of profiteers.

For anyone to get any post in the state machinery huge amounts of money had to be paid to the "benefactors" of the NPN upper crust. As a result, incompetents were entrusted with running the economy. They embezzled big sums of government money. Sometimes the abuses were so obvious (even amid overall bad management and lack of control) that, according to the local press, those implicated burned down the buildings where the compromising documents were kept in order to cover up their traces. Fires gutted the Ministry of Communications, which was the highest and the most beautiful building in Nigeria, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Education, the accounts office of the Lagos Development Department, and the Radio Corporation (State of Anambra).

Even though many people in the government apparatus were obviously linked with the arson, they all remained in their posts. The process of unrestrained lining of pockets continued.

During the rule of the Shagari government, the number of millionaires in Nigeria increased by more than a thousand. They transferred abroad the money which they had embezzled illegally, aided by the owners of certain companies. Over \$16 billion was funnelled out of Nigeria in 1980-1983. Some "underground millionaires" feared nothing, and kept their money at home. According to Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, Chief of Staff of Nigeria's Armed Forces, in just one raid following the coup, police found a total of 15 million Nairas in the apartments of several top officials of the former regime.

For each post or for a beneficial contract the individuals and companies involved paid the party on which the advantageous bargaining depended considerable amounts of money fixed in advance and sometimes even included in the contract. In particular, it was revealed following the coup that when the Federal Government signed a contract on the purchase by Nigeria of 18 Jaguar combat aircraft, the British Aerospace Company transferred 25 million Nairas to the NPN account as "commission". In other words, corruption reached the level of the state policy.

Opposition activities in the States which it controlled were also far from patriotic. Most State governments featured bad management and embezzlement of public funds. Moreover, proceeding from their narrow party interests, the opposition leaders called for boycotts of the few positive initiatives of the central Federal government.

THE ARMY COMES TO THE FORE

Given the sharp aggravation of social conflicts and deteriorating economic situation, the Shagari government took some measures to prevent "uncontrolled" political interference by the army. A programme to modernise the armed forces was launched; the supreme command reshuffled, and the Army declared the "guarantor of Nigerian democracy". Civilian government leaders, carrying out these "pre-emptive measures", felt so confident that it never occurred to them they might be punished for financial abuses, conspiracies with foreign companies and machinations with imported licences. It was revealed later that the military counted a great deal on the post-election euphoria which swept the upper echelons of the "Second Republic", and during the four months of preparations for the coup risked postponing the date twice.

There was an increase in the prestige and influence among the military of the group of officers which had even previously opposed the transfer of power to a civilian government, and which claimed that only the army could save the country from catastrophe under the prevailing conditions.

Some estimates say there were six abortive coups during the "Second Republic".

Most of the far-sighted representatives of the military command realised that the Shagari government was bringing Nigeria to the brink of collapse; besides, discontent was growing

in the army, particularly among junior and middle officer ranks. The process of socio-class dissociation was also reflected in the army. According to information leaked to the press after the coup, there was also a conspiracy at a lower level at the same time as that of generals and senior officers who led the coup of December 31. Interviewed by foreign correspondents, Major-General I. Babanghida, member of the Supreme Military Council stated that the coup was preemptive both as regards the mounting protest of the popular masses, which could have well-nigh led to an explosion, and the conspiracy of junior officers, whose actions might have been far more radical than the December 31 developments.

Thus, power in Nigeria was taken by the military who objectively expressed the interests of the nationalist bourgeoisie that opposed the bureaucratic and neo-comprador layer of the same class which had waxed fat under the Shagari government.

The new military government promised to take measures to improve the economy, maintain unity and stability in the country, diversify the economy, achieve self-reliance in food and other staples, and eradicate the corruption and other financial and administrative abuses which thrived under the civilian government.

The military authorities have been attaching special importance to investigating the criminal actions of the top cliques of the overthrown government.

Several hundred people are being detained in the strict regime prison of Kirikiri.

Some members of the Shagari government managed to flee abroad, among them former NPN Chairman A. Akinloye; Senate Chairman J. Wayas; NPN activist and a well-known millionaire Isiaku Ibragim; and Minister of Transportation Umaru Dikko. Realising that the military government cannot get its hands on him Dikko declared a "Holy War" to punish the military for overthrowing the "legally elected government".

Dikko was not alone in this respect. US President Reagan and representatives of certain other Western states expressed their "regret" at the halt to "democratic development" in Nigeria. The new Nigerian government considered this to be attempts to interfere in the country's internal affairs. In answer to a BBC correspondent's question on the probable terms of Nigeria's return to "demo-

cratic government", General Buhari stated that the military would never allow a return to the "democracy" which existed before.

FUTURE PLANS

Well aware of the complexity of the problems facing the country, General Buhari has not made any high sounding promises.

As a measure of first priority, the military government tried to improve the supply of staples to the people. Immediately after the coup armed soldiers watched markets in some States to ensure that prices were "reasonable", and in some places local authorities printed lists of "recommended" prices which were considerably lower than those previously. Every so often the military staged a mass sale of foods and consumer items from the depots where the profiteers had kept their reserves, as in Lagos and other cities. Such "populist" actions undoubtedly pleased the masses, though sometimes they led to a boycott of the market by traders, and drew criticism from the press and public organisations, which noted that such measures cannot replace an organised programme of economic development and the solution of social problems on a centralised basis.

The outline of such a programme was put forward by the military somewhat later. It mirrors their pragmatic approach to the "rescuing of Nigeria", and contains no provisions for any change in the general orientation of the country's development. The basic trends of the programme include more investment in agriculture, and expanding the production of mineral raw materials and petrochemical products. The military have outlined "austere" measures by reducing imports and government expenditures, and also by limiting the influx of foreign specialists and workers from neighbouring countries. The re-organisation of the public sector enterprises, some of which will apparently be closed down because they are unprofitable, as was the case in the State of Kwara, is also worthy of mention. At the same time, according to A. Ibrahim, Minister of Transportation and Aviation the main government corporations and companies will remain under the state control, regardless of the extent of their profitability.

The solution of many problems is hampered by the fact that the government is short of money; besides, there is the problem of deferring payments

to the Western trade partners on the country's short-term debts of more than \$5 billion.

Of course, it is possible to arbitrarily increase the oil production over and above the quota set for Nigeria by OPEC (1.3 million barrels a day, while potentially it is possible to produce 2.4 million barrels). Economists estimate that an increase in oil production of 0.5 million barrels a day would give Nigeria \$5 billion within a year to pay off Western credits. However, a Nigerian undermining of the agreements reached with OPEC would meet the strategic objectives of the West, which is seeking, by hook or by crook, to undermine the organisation. Nonetheless, the Buhari government declared that Nigeria's production quota had to be revised and increased. At the same time, it was stressed that Nigeria has no intention of withdrawing from OPEC, as membership has "more positive than negative aspects".

Nigeria has the task of becoming self-reliant in food, while the USA has been putting pressure on it in this respect. During the five years it existed, the joint US-Nigerian Commission has only "examined" 30 large-scale agricultural projects for Nigeria, whose implementation has been delayed under different pretexts. Moreover, the Americans have never mentioned the fact that 20 per cent of Nigeria's food imports (worth more than \$300 million annually) comes from the United States, including staples like rice and wheat. This lever of pressure is all the more important for Washington because it has not forgotten the warnings of the Obasanjo mi-

litary government concerning the use of "oil sanctions" against the USA for its cooperation with racist South Africa. Since that government citing this reason, nationalised the British Petroleum Company in 1979, the Reagan Administration is somewhat worried about the fate of US oil companies operating in Nigeria, which are also part of oil-producing projects in South Africa.

While negotiating with Western financial organisations, the new Nigerian government is striving to mobilise its internal resources. It has already achieved very substantial savings by overhauling the apparatus; a considerable amount of money can also be obtained by combatting corruption, smuggling, neglect and incompetence at all levels.

Since their very first days in power the new leaders of Nigeria have declared that they would try to regain the initiative in the international arena which the former administration had lost. They took a principled position on the problems of southern Africa, calling on the UN to contribute to the withdrawal of the South African occupation troops from Namibia and granting Namibia independence before the end of this year without any linkage with the stay of the Cuban military contingent in Angola. The new government also expressed its readiness to actively co-operate within the framework of the OAU, and favoured international detente, limits on the arms race, and mutually advantageous cooperation between states with different social systems. ■

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INTERNATIONAL

AFRO-ASIAN ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

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[Text]

AAPSO 6th Congress, held in Algiers on 27th-30th May 1984, takes place at a crucial moment in the long struggle waged by the peoples of the world who are now, more than ever, called upon to rally round the goals of national liberation, independence, progress and peace to confront the eminent dangers posed to humanity.

Inspired by the main principles of the Bandung Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement the work of the Congress has recorded the continued development of the AAPSO in the permanent and effective defence of the just causes of the peoples of Africa, Asia and the rest of the world against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism, racism and Apartheid.

As the VI Congress underlined the different initiatives taken by AAPSO as part of its task of enlightening world public opinion and mobilising peoples, it has given the participants an opportunity to study the international situation and the various problems emanating from it.

Hence, the VI Congress notes that the situation which still retains the characteristics which gave birth to AAPSO, is still dominated with an escalation of the grave imperialist menaces against independence, sovereignty, progress, security and peace.

The Congress has also noted that imperialism, by multiplying the different forms of aggression, fueling world tension, instigating conflicts, imposing a frantic arms race, and posing the menace of a nuclear conflagration to humanity, declares its firm determination to stifle the peoples' aspirations for freedom, progress and peace.

The VI Congress stresses, in this respect, that the phenomena resulting from imperialism are still the main preoccupation of our age and require further mobilisation for their total eradication.

Completing the decolonisation process is still hampered by obstacles at a time of neocolonialist penetration, multiplying hotbeds of tension and war and a deterioration in international relations which has reached a critical point.

In fact, if the colonialist empire had faced bitter defeat in the past decades in various parts of the world, it still persists in some parts of the world.

The VI Congress has expressed profound preoccupation with the current situation in the Middle East which is fraught with grave menaces to the realisation of peace and security.

The intransigence of the Zionist entity in its aggressive and expansionist acts, annexation and brutal political oppression of the inhabitants of the territories occupied by force, are in defiance of the international community.

The restoration of the Palestinian peoples inalienable national rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on the soil of their homeland, constitutes the fundamental condition for the establishment of just and durable peace in the region.

In this respect, the participants demand the US and its allies to abstain from providing the Zionist entity with arms and extending political, economic and financial support which enable it to continue its aggressive expansionist policy.

The participants strongly reiterate their indefectible support for the Palestinian people's heroic struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and reiterate their effective solidarity with them in the hard ordeals they are passing through and the tremendous sacrifices they are making to recover their dignity and national existence.

The Congress expresses profound sympathy with and total solidarity with the people of Lebanon in the ordeal they are passing through in their struggle against the Zionist occupants to safeguard their territorial integrity, unity and

Arabism. In this respect the Congress underlines the decisive role played by the Lebanese national movement.

The 6th Congress firmly stands by the side of Syria in its confrontation with American imperialism and the Zionist aggression designed to impose domination and hegemony on the whole Arab region.

The 6th Congress considers that the unilateral declaration of the so-called Turkish Cypriot Republic in the northern part of the Cypriot Republic which is occupied by Turkish forces, constitutes a violation of the right of Cyprus to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and its status as a non-aligned state. This declaration aims at consolidating the interests of imperialism and NATO which use this island as a base for military aggression on the Middle East countries.

The 6th Congress strongly supports the legitimate demands of the Cypriot people.

The 6th Congress asserts its absolute support to the Libyan Arab People's Socialist Jamahiriya in standing against the machinations waged by American imperialism and denounces vigorously the terrorist operations attempted by American and Zionist stooges against the cultural gains of the Arab Libyan people.

The 6th Congress notes that Africa which has known the dark nights of colonialism, is still suffering from the evils of the direct domination of neocolonialism, Apartheid and racism.

The participants have extensively analysed the situation of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and the frontline states who are all confronting the most violent forms of hegemony, oppression and destruction perpetrated by the forces of colonialism, neocolonialism and racism backed by the political, economic and military support of American imperialism and some western states.

In this respect, the reactionary regime of Pretoria constitutes in its very essence a direct and constant threat to the independence and development of all the African countries.

The Pretoria-Tel Aviv axis, which is endeavouring to establish puppet regimes in the continent depending on the direct aid extended by the US and some NATO countries, reflects the strategic goals of imperialism in the region.

AAPSO 6th Congress hails the heroic struggle waged by the peoples of South Africa and Namibia under the leadership of the ANC and SWAPO respectively and reiterates its unwavering material and moral support for the realisation of their national rights.

The Congress hails the valiant struggle waged by the frontline states under extremely hard conditions against the attempts at destabilisation and hegemony by the Apartheid regime.

The VI Congress is of the view that the persistence of the Western Sahara conflict constitutes a grave menace to peace and security of the region. It reiterates its firm support to the Sahrawi people in their struggle for their right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Resolution No. 104 adopted by the OAU 19th Summit.

The VI Congress reaffirms the necessity of safeguarding the security and stability of the countries of the Horn of Africa by confronting all the intrigues and conspiracies of world imperialism and underlines the necessity of resorting to peaceful means to settle all the conflicts in the region.

The VI Congress deplores the obstacles facing the OAU in its efforts to establish peace in Chad. It reaffirms the necessity of respecting the unity of the people of Chad and its territorial integrity in accordance with the principles of the OAU Charter, and on the basis of constructive dialogue free from any foreign intervention or pressure in order to achieve national reconciliation.

The VI Congress underlines the urgency of putting a prompt end to the colonialist presence in some sovereign islands of the Comoros Republic and the Madagascar Republic.

The VI Congress expresses preoccupation with the continued armed conflict between Iran and Iraq, both members of the Islamic nation and the Non-Aligned group. In view of the grave consequences of this war and its development, the 6th Congress makes an urgent appeal for the prevalence of reason and the spirit of responsibility in the higher interest of both peoples and their common struggle against imperialism and Zionism. For this end the VI Congress of AAPSO recommends to the Permanent Secretariat to set up a committee which will have to proceed to Teheran and Baghdad to make the necessary contacts with the leaderships of both Iran and Iraq in order to make a positive contribution to the efforts undertaken in pursuance of peace through negotiations.

The 6th Congress considers that the peoples of Asia, who have waged a heroic struggle against imperialism, know through their bitter experience, that they have to struggle side by side against all imperialist intrigues in order to preserve their independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and, above all, their Asian identity. They have to confront all the imperialist efforts which aim at sowing dissension, difference and discord. They have to fight the imperialist military blocs and pacts and the growing infiltration of the multinationals.

The 6th Congress calls for the immediate cessation of all and any American intervention in the affairs of the countries of Asia, particularly of India, which obstructs the legitimate aspirations of peoples in this region to progress, peace, security and cooperation.

In respect of Afghanistan, the VIth Congress hails all constructive and realistic initiatives and proposals for the normalisation of the situation in the area.

The VIth Congress appeals to the Secretary-General of the UN to further the efforts for the establishment of dialogue between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The 6th Congress supports the struggle led by the peoples of Asia against the attempts of destabilisation, aggressions, intervention and interference in any form, supports the peoples of Indochina in their efforts in national construction and defence, and in making Southeast Asia a zone of peace, stability and cooperation.

It firmly supports new proposals of the DPRK on tripartite talks for the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea.

The 6th Congress supports the continued struggle of the people of East Timor against Indonesian occupation and for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In Latin and Central America and the Caribbean, the US aggression and the direct intervention constitute a grave menace to the independence and sovereignty of the countries of the region. Cuba and Nicaragua remain the main target for the US.

Nicaragua faces every day aggression and attempts of destabilisation. The people of Salvador is waging a heroic struggle against imperialist dictatorship and interference. Grenada has been the victim of brutal aggression from USA. The peoples of this region are under the yoke of brutal dictatorship from local oligarchies supported by US imperialism which continues to implement the anachronistic Monroe Doctrine to protect the interests of American monopolists.

In this regard, the 6th Congress of AAPSO expresses its support to the initiatives of the Contadora group, of the government of Nicaragua and of the Salvadorian patriots who aim at establishing peace in the area. It reiterates its support to the struggle of the peoples in the area for the safeguarding of their sovereignty, the free choice of their political systems and for an independent development.

The 6th Congress considers that the multiplication of imperialist military bases and alliances, the setting-up of new arrangements for aggression such as the Rapid Deployment Force, the development of medium range missiles and sophisticated arms in Western Europe, in the Mediterranean and in the Indian Ocean, the production of massive destruction arms exacerbate an atmosphere of defiance in international relations and constantly feed the arms race, thus exposing the world to the risk of a nuclear holocaust.

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INTERNATIONAL

BLOC PUBLISHERS' CONFERENCE DISCUSSES COUNTERPROPAGANDA

Moscow KNIZHNOYE OBOZRENIYE in Russian No 48, 30 Nov 84 p 4

[Article: "Conference of Publishers from Fraternal Countries"]

[Text] A conference of the directors of the book-publishing organs of the socialist countries was held in Moscow. Participants were: the PRB, HPR, SRV, GDR, the Republic of Cuba, the LPDR, MPR, PPR, USSR, CSSR. Representatives of Angola, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Nicaragua and Ethiopia also took part in the work of the conference.

B.N. Pastukhov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants and the Book Trade (Goskomizdat SSSR) gave a report "On strengthening the role of books in propagandizing the fraternal collaboration of the socialist countries and in the struggle for peace and against imperialistic reaction."

The speaker emphasized that book publishers of socialist countries have every reason to note with pride that their collaboration is an integral part of the collaboration among the communist and workers' parties of the socialist countries in the field of ideological and propagandistic work, and that in this regard the discussion of questions connected with the further strengthening of the role of books in propagandizing the ideas of socialism and its historical advances, in the struggle against bourgeois ideology and for peace and against imperialist reaction is extremely important and timely.

The role and significance of contemporary political books which affirm communist ideals are growing. One of the most important tasks of publishing houses is the preparation of publications dealing with the main problems of developed socialism, and of books which would expand the theoretical horizon, enrich with new conclusions and extend the concepts of the contemporary regularities of the economic, sociopolitical and spiritual development of the countries.

Publishing houses in the Soviet Union have devoted particular attention of late to the preparation and publication of books in the international series "Real Socialism. Theory and Practice" and "Criticism of Bourgeois Ideology and Revisionism," as well as the international library "Mankind on

the Verge of the 21st Century." These play a major role in propaganda for the socialist way of life, the advantages of socialism and the successes of the countries of the socialist commonwealth. Some 108 books have appeared since 1976 in the series "Present-day Socialism. Theory and Practice" alone.

Later in the report matters relating to the publication of scientific and technical literature were stressed, especially the need for continual and active propaganda for the ideas and provisions concerning the more rational and efficient utilization of scientific, technical and production potentials, of all types of resources, of the technical re-equipping of the national economy and of the assimilation, in particular, of electronics, micro-processors, and robot technology, as set forth in the documents of the Economic Conference of the CEMA Countries at the highest level.

Referring to the publication of youth-oriented books, the speaker emphasized that our books are called upon to help the Party conduct youth work in the spirit of the Leninist precept that there can be no concessions "in theory, program or standard." Under present-day conditions this work is directed against any manifestations of an absence of principles and ideals among youth and consumerist attitude toward socialism, and against negative manifestations such as insufficient workplace and community involvement, political naivete and lack of discipline.

A large part of the report was devoted to questions of the preparation by book publishers in the Soviet Union to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the victory over German fascism and Japanese militarism and other 1985 political dates and of conducting the next Moscow International Book Exhibition and Fair.

Afterwards there took place a detailed exchange of opinions on the report given by B.N. Pastukhov, as well as on questions relating to the fulfillment of the recommendations of the 1982 Sofia Conference and the results of work for the joint publication of books and international series of sociopolitical literature in which the delegations which attended had taken part.

In conclusion, a documents summing up the conference's work was unanimously approved. It noted that the conference of directors of book-publishing organs of the socialist countries, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, had analyzed the results of activity in the field of book publication and dissemination over the past 2 years.

Work to propagandize the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, the achievements of real socialism and its historical advantages, the peace-loving foreign policy of the socialist countries and their role in the struggle for peace and security of the peoples and in support of the struggle of developing countries for social progress has been intensified. Book publishers from socialist countries have stepped up their activity with regard to the publication of literature which reveals the anti-popular nature of imperialism, its anti-communist and anti-socialist direction and the policy of the current administration of the USA and its allies, which is a danger to humanity.

The conference participants noted the expanding collaboration among the leading book-publishing organs and publishing houses of the socialist countries in the production and dissemination of literature at a time when political, economic, scientific and cultural ties are being constantly strengthened between fraternal countries, the basic principles of which are set forth in the documents of the communist and workers' parties, the statements of their leaders and in the bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements between the socialist countries.

Constant attention was given to the coordination of publishing programs on basic problems of social development and to the systematic exchange of information. Publishing houses of the fraternal countries which deal with the same type of literature deepened their collaboration in the field of the preparation and issuance of joint publications on the timely problems of today.

In the summary document topics were set forth on which publication of literature should be continued. Among these are books which shed light on the development of the world revolutionary process at the present stage, the activity of communist and workers' parties, the regularities and the conditions of the building of a society of developed socialism, and the struggle for peace and social progress and against the reactionary nature of imperialism and the militaristic plans of the USA and its allies.

Dates were set for conducting regular multilateral conferences and meetings of representatives of the publishing houses. The proposal by the GDR delegation to organize the next conference of the directors of the book-publishing organs of the socialist countries in Berlin in 1986 was gratefully accepted.

On the whole one can say that the now established practice of exchanging opinions within the framework of such meetings of the directors of book-publishing organs of socialist countries, conducted regularly every 2 years, enriches all their participants with new experience and is yet another step on the road to the deepening of collaboration for the good of the world and of socialism.

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INTERNATIONAL

BOOK DESCRIBING PAKISTANI MILITARY REGIMES REVIEWED

Moscow ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY in English No 6, Nov-Dec 84 pp 61-62

[Text]

K. L. KAMAL, *Pakistan. The Garrison State*. New Delhi, 1982, 160 pp.

In his book *Pakistan. The Garrison State*, K. L. Kamal, an Indian political analyst, starts with a review of the military participation in the social life of the developing countries. He notes that the military's active interference in the national policy and the mechanism of adopting government decisions is "more rule than exception" for many young states. Kamal stresses the connection between this particular feature of the current political situation in the developing countries, and the burden of military spending they carry.

The book contains eloquent figures on the increase in absolute and relative military spending by these countries. This increase of military expenditures is accompanied by their growing dependence on Western countries for military hardware, thereby aggravating their economic difficulties.

The author analyses the policies of Pakistan's subsequent civilian and military regimes. He proceeds from the premise that since the formation of Pakistan in 1947, power was seized and is still retained by the "bureaucracy-military oligarchy". Until 1958 (the time when the military led by Ayub Khan first came to power), this oligarchy "installed the politicians and political parties in office to provide a facade of parliamentary government" (pp. 10-11).

Of great interest is the analysis of the three military regimes in Pakistan which the author regards as the three stages in the reestablishment of the "garrison state". In characterising the Ayub Khan regime, the author notes that its "unprecedented" duration (11 years) made it possible to abandon direct military rule and provide the country with new political institutions. (The system of the so-called Basic Democracies). According to Kamal, Ayub Khan succeeded in buttressing the alliance between bureaucracy, the industrialists and part of the traditional landed aristocracy under the leadership of the top brass of the country. However, he notes that the regime had "more glitter than substance". The military's main setback was the failure of its plans to win mass support for the regime.

The second phase in the establishment of the garrison state (the rule of General Yahya Khan) was marked by the holding of the first general elections in 1970s. The Indian scholar notes that Yahya Khan sought to consolidate the power of the military behind the facade of parliamentary institutions. Yahya Khan advanced the idea of elaborating a constitution that would ensure the permanent participation of the army in running the country (p. 79).

According to Kamal, the present military regime headed by General Zia Ul Haq represents the third stage in the formation of the "garrison state".

It differs from the previous regimes by the adherence of the authorities to the "ideologisation of politics". The military regime has pursued its domestic economic and social policies under the banner of Islam, praising Islamic ideology to the skies.

At the same time all the three stages have a great deal in common, including the spread of power and influence of the top military brass to civilian spheres and the enhancement of its role in the management of the economy.

The present military regime has failed to solve the major problems faced by the country, above all the nationalities question and questions of economic development. Pakistan's foreign debt is growing. Currying favour with their Western creditors, the military authorities have initiated the denationalisation and comprehensive involvement of local and foreign capital into the country's economy. The author points out that Pakistan is in the grip of a crisis which can only get worse due to the fact that the military, as he believes, are "determined to hold total power permanently" (p. 131).

V. OVLEV

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INTERNATIONAL

BOOK ON SOVIET DIPLOMACY REVIEWED

Moscow ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY in English No 6, Nov-Dec 84 p 61

[Text]

V. V. SOKOLOV, *A Diplomat of Lenin's School: Life and Work of L. M. Karakhan*, Moscow, Political Literature Publishers, 1983, 193 pp.

Lev Karakhan (1889-1937) was a professional revolutionary, like many diplomats at the dawn of Soviet power. His career was marked by milestones in Soviet diplomacy such as the Brest peace treaty of 1918—the first triumph of the Soviet policy of peace—which he and Georgi Chicherin signed on Lenin's instructions, and the most important agreements with Japan, China and Turkey in the mid-1930s.

The principles of Soviet foreign policy laid down by Lenin provided a basis for Karakhan's diplomatic and foreign relations activities.

He was one of the authors of several appeals issued by the Soviet government to the peoples of the East, which were based on the historical Decree on Peace, Declaration of the Rights of the Peoples of Russia, and appeal To the Tilling Moslems of Russia and the East. Karakhan directly took part in drawing up and issuing the appeals to the government and the people of Mongolia, to the workers and peasants of Persia, to the workers and peasants of Turkey, to the revolutionary organisations of Korea, to the Chinese people, to the governments of North and South China, etc.

The book under review emphasises Karakhan's tremendous contribution as Deputy People's Commissar (Minister) of Foreign Affairs to establishing and developing friendly relations between Soviet Russia and Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey. In October 1919 Karakhan attended the meeting and talks between Lenin and Muhammad Vali-Khan, head of the Afghan extraordinary mission,

who made a point of discussing in Moscow specific issues related to establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

L. Karakhan was actively involved in elaborating the first Soviet-Iranian Treaty, signed in February 1921, which laid the foundation for the goodneighbourly relations between the two countries for many years to come. The treaty was signed by the People's Commissar G. Chicherin, and L. Karakhan. Karakhan also contributed great services to normalising and establishing friendly relations with the new Turkey headed by Mustafa Kemal-Pasha.

In our opinion, the author was quite correct in paying special attention to the importance of normalising relations between Soviet Russia and the Far East, and to the personal role of L. Karakhan as a diplomat of the new school who participated in the activity of the Soviet Government in the Far East. The author correctly concludes that normalisation of relations with Mongolia (1921), China and Japan became possible only thanks to Karakhan's commitment to the Party, and to his great diplomatic talent. His endurance, diplomatic tact and patience is recalled, especially during the negotiations with representatives of the Chinese and Japanese governments. As a result, treaties with China and Japan were signed in 1924-1925 in Moscow.

The conclusion of agreements with these two countries was complicated by their direct participation in the anti-Soviet intervention in the Far East, as well as by China's overt interference in the domestic affairs of revolutionary Mongolia. The author shows Karakhan's role as one of the top officials of the USSR People's Commissariat (Ministry) of Foreign Affairs in im-

plementing Lenin's idea of establishing the autonomous Far Eastern Republic (FER) on the borderlines of Soviet Russia, the idea having both military and diplomatic importance. This outstanding diplomat's activity in organising the foreign policy agencies that had to solve the formidable task of expanding its ties with the countries of the East and the USA is also vividly portrayed. At the time Soviet Russia succeeded in sending diplomatic missions on behalf of the FER to Peking and to the USA, and to have the FER participate in several international conferences—a fact of tremendous importance for the Soviet Government in its attempt to break through the diplomatic blockade of the Russian Federation both in the West and the Far East.

The author describes L. Karakhan as one of the founders of Soviet diplomacy, an outstanding theoretician and career diplomat who—in all the posts he held as a statesman and diplomat—gave all his knowledge and energy, his rich experience of organisational and diplomatic activity, to consolidating Soviet power and the Land of the Soviets in the international arena.

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U.S. NON-GOVERNMENT GROUPS SAID ON SIDE OF NICARAGUAN CONTRAS

[Editorial Report] Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian on 17 January 1985 carries on page 3 a 700-word article by A. Sisnev entitled "The Aggressor Is Becoming More Brazen." The article reports on American intervention in Nicaragua, including the direct participation in battle of American military personnel and emigre groups trained in the United States. In addition to these organizations, Sisnev mentions several other groups of participants. The article states: According to the press, special military groups are being created from among former 'Green Berets' and members of such arch-reactionary groups as the 'John Birch Society' and the Ku Klux Klan. In the state of Alabama a brigade of Ku Klux Klan members has already been formed, which will participate along with the 'contras' in attacks against Nicaragua

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE IN SYRIA

[Editorial Report] Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian on 20 January 1985 on page 3 carries a 100-word article entitled "The Language of Friendship." The article reports that a conference of Russian language specialists was held in Damascus. It was attended by university teachers, instructors of institutes and technical schools, translators, and workers from construction projects in which the Soviet Union is participating. The speakers emphasized the importance of learning Russian to "strengthen bonds of friendship and industrial cooperation." The conference participants noted the increased interest in learning Russian among the Syrians.

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NATIONAL

SYMPOSIUM: 'LANGUAGE OF CULTURE' AND ITS ETHNIC NATURE

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ETNOGRAFIYA in Russian No 6 November-December 1984 carries on pages 140-142 a 1,300-word synopsis by I.A. Osnitskaya of the papers delivered at the 22-23 November, 1983 symposium "Problems of the Ethnic Characteristics of the 'Language of Culture'" held at the Leningrad branch of the Ethnographic Institute imeni N.N. Miklukho-Maklay of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Participants in the symposium came from scientific and scholarly institutions and museums of Moscow, Leningrad, Tartu, Voronezh, and Tomsk. The introductory paper was read by A.S. Myl'nikov (Leningrad). Titled "The Language of Culture and Problems of Ethnic Characteristics of Sign Systems of Communication," it noted that, though the concept "language of culture" is a fairly recent one connected with the appearance of semiotics, many of its basic ideas can be found in earlier works, most notably, in Lessing's "Laocoon" or Marx and Engels' "The German Ideology." The synopsis contains summaries of the following papers:

-- A.K. Bayburin (Leningrad) "On the Language of Ritual" in which ritual is defined as "collective and individual behavior during crises."

-- G.N. Gracheva (Leningrad), on the complexity of the notion of ethnic traits of the language of culture. The paper speaks of the difficulty of recording and interpreting myths and religious beliefs.

-- Yu.V. Ionova (Leningrad), on nature symbols in Korean rituals.

-- L.V. Markova (Moscow), on the symbolic characteristics of wedding ceremonies. By comparing traditional and modern rituals in Bulgaria, Markova showed how wedding ceremonies evolve and how certain images become recodified in their significance in accordance with changes in the conditions of peoples' lives.

-- Yu.V. Ivanova (Moscow) "Realization of Traditions and Innovations in Behavior Stereotypes, Based on the Balkan and Caucasus Mountain Ritual of Reconciling Blood Feuds"

-- A.N. Angert'yev (Leningrad) "Linguistic Analogies and Metaphors in the Theory of Culture" on the advantages and dangers of exchange of terminology between disciplines.

-- A.D. Dulichenko (Tartu) "Ethnocultural Functions of Slavic Literary Microlanguages" regards language as a highly organized and effective semiotic system that strengthens the ethno-social community. Particular attention is paid to the mutual relationship between ethnic and linguistic traits during

so-called "minor rebirths" such as those of the Rusins or Gradishchans of Yugoslavia or the Banat Bulgarians. The paper speaks on the effective role of the creation of a literary language in preserving ethnic self-awareness, and suggests the "ethnic reading" of grammars and lexical codifications.

-- Ya.V. Chesnov (Moscow) "On the Symbolism of the Human Body"

-- P.D. Sakharov (Moscow), on the architecture of Indo-Nepalese temples.

-- L.L. Viktorova (Leningrad) "Traditional Culture as a Means of Demarcation in the Peoples of Central Asia" investigates the distinctness of the culture of Mongolian peoples from that of Turkic, Iranian, and Tungus in spite of prolonged interethnic contacts.

-- Ye.S. Novik (Moscow), used a unique film on Yakut and Evenki shamans and investigated communication in shaman rituals. "The film is invaluable for scholars in that it preserves disappearing rituals, costumes, and other aspects of shamanism whose loss would otherwise be irreparable in a few years."

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NATIONAL

UKRAINIAN FILM AS COUNTERPROPAGANDA WEAPON

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA KUL'TURA in Russian on 8 January 1985 carries on page 3 a 2,000-word article by A. Kapto, secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party, under the rubric "Ideological Work: The Reality and Effectiveness," entitled "When the Muses Are Not Silent." Kapto deliberately twists a popular Russian aphorism "when cannons roar, the muses are silent" in his title to underscore the theme of his article. He urges Soviet literature and the arts to be in the forefront of the ideological battle against Western counterrevolutionary propaganda even when the "cannons" are silent. He cites the successful counterpropaganda efforts of Ukrainian writers and artists against Western "mass culture," which, he claims, is being forced into the socialist countries by way of powerful radio stations. He is particularly boastful of their successful use of political genre in Ukrainian films. "One should name such interesting works as: Atonement for the Sins of Others, The Mystery of St. George, and the Collapse of Operation Big Bear," he writes. "The point of the attack in these films is directed against the most evil enemies of the Ukrainian people--bourgeois nationalists bespattered with the blood of fascist collaborators and the mercenaries of their new masters, the servants of imperialism," he continues. He also cites D.V. Denisenko's film High Crossing "for its content and spirit directed against the insinuations of imperialistic propaganda," and A. Ivaniv's film Confined by Phantoms [U prizrakov v plenu] which refutes the validity of religious beliefs. There are several promising antipropaganda films in production, he explains. One such film is an expose on the undermining activity of Radio Liberty "which is financed by the CIA," called Can-Can in an English Park, and another is a depiction of U.S. international politics and its "extremism and murderous methods"--Public Prosecutor by Levchuk. Kapto concludes the lengthy article by calling for the return of political verse in music, such as the songs performed in the past by Il'ya Nabatov, to counter the assault of Western "mass culture" on socialism.

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NATIONAL

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27 February 1985

VOSS GIVES WARTIME HERO MEDAL BREAKDOWN BY NATIONALITIES

[Editorial Report] Moscow AGITATOR in Russian No 23, December 1984 carries on pages 25-28 a 2,000-word article by A. Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Nationalities Council, titled "The Great Strength of Friendship of the Peoples." Voss sketches the role of the Russian working class as the nucleus around which Lenin's idea of fraternal internationalism solidified following the October Revolution. During World War II the Soviet peoples demonstrated their solidarity against fascism by forming more than 80 national divisions and multi-national brigades. "More than 7 million courageous defenders of the Motherland were awarded orders and medals of the USSR. More than 11,000 of them (representatives of 60 nationalities of the USSR) were awarded the rank of Hero of the Soviet Union, among whom were: over 8,000 Russians, over 2,000 Ukrainians, 309 Belorussians, 96 Kazakhs, 90 Georgians, 90 Armenians, 69 Uzbeks, 43 Azeris, 18 Turkmens, 15 Lithuanians, 15 Tajiks, 12 Kirghiz, 12 Latvians, 9 Estonians, 2 Moldavians, and representatives of other nationalities."

Bringing his sketch of the development of internationalism up to the present, Voss mentions preparations for the upcoming 27th CPSU Congress and the important work on a new CPSU platform for improving socialism and finding "concrete solutions for the diverse and complex problems that stem from the nature of our life and which, by their character and origin, naturally relate to different stages of the first phase of communist formation. The new party Platform needs to reveal in particular the character of nationality problems under mature socialism, to illuminate the nationalities' future that will stem from the process of internationalization in public life and from the gradual and steady growing together of the nations."

CSO: 1830/272

NATIONAL

COMPUTERS AID IN WORK-PLACE CONTROL PROCEDURES

[Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 10 January 1985 carries on page 3 a 1,000-word article on the use of computers to eliminate duplication of efforts by control groups and organs in plan-verification. The idea came to light in the Ukraine after one organization noted that the plan went unfilled due to the constant need to respond [to] inquiries from various different control groups. The author explained that a coordinating staff had been established, its members drawn from the many control organs in the oblast. "The plans of the control organs come into the local staff. The authors of these documents know the computer language. Each organization, as well as the objectives to be verified, has its code. There is also a classifier [index] of the checks [to be made]. There are 23 of these. The facts are put into the machine, and it gives a composite plan of work with the necessary corrections." The author notes that, in this fashion, the many different interested groups can combine their efforts; everybody saves time and energy. Further benefits can be found in the fact that control organs can keep track, not only of the larger, high-visibility organizations, but also the smaller ones which often go unnoticed. "Electronics can help broaden the geography of the investigation, uncover untouched reserves in hundreds of new objectives." The coordinating staff can also monitor more closely regional trends: "... they can observe tendencies, phenomena, get generalized data which allow them to adopt more fundamental administrative decisions."

There are still a few problems; the author admonishes ministries and departments for not supplying the necessary information as quickly as possible so that control efforts can be conjoined at all levels.

CSO: 1830/270

NATIONAL

PARTY EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LAW AND ORDER IN THE USSR

[Editorial Report] Moscow VOPROSY ISTORII KPSS in Russian No 11, 1984, carries on pages 30-42 a 6,400-word article by N.I. Ol'shevskii, a candidate of historical sciences, on efforts to strengthen law and order in the Soviet Union. The author documents some recent work by different republics and autonomous republics to involve workers in this process: lectures by the "Znaniye" Society on law and order themes, general ideological and legal education work, increased involvement of the population in the Voluntary Peoples' Militia [DND], strengthening the role of the soviets of peoples' deputies. The formation of public opinion also plays a great role in the preservation of law and order, the author notes. "Public opinion, the rigorous, impartial word of comrades at work at times means more than other administrative measures." In some figures from Khar'kov sociologists, between 35-40 percent of lawbreakers who were subject to administrative measures reappeared in the courts as repeat-offenders, while only 7-14 percent repeated their illegal actions after the application of "social" measures. The author devotes some attention to the need for good organization of people's leisure time; these efforts are particularly important in preventing crime. "According to the facts of court statistics, almost one half of all crimes and 80 percent of holligan actions result from drunkenness." The author states that almost 60 percent of unlawful absences from work are due to alcohol abuse. He suggests that party organization take a much more active approach in the organization of group leisure activities to counteract this problem.

CSO: 1830/270

REGIONAL

UZBEK OFFICIAL ASKS UNION ORGANS FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING HELP

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 29 Nov 85 p 2

[Account of "Speech by deputy A.U. Salimov," Chartaskiy Electoral Okrug, Namangan Oblast [chairman of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet Presidium] to the 27 November afternoon session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium]

[Excerpt] Comrades! Uzbekistan's workers, like all Soviet people, responded fervently to the party's appeal to complete the 5-year plan worthily and accelerate the intensification of the economy. They are wholeheartedly resolved to meet fully and on time the targets of the state plan for economic and social development for 1985 and for the 11th 5-Year Plan and indeed to overfulfill them.

It must be stated quite openly that this will be far from easy. Especially since until recently matters were not entirely as they should have been in our republic. In a number of instances flagrant violations of state discipline were permitted, the requirements of the rule of law and the principles of morality were ignored, and shameful examples of bribery, embezzlement, distortion of data, and window-dressing took place. Personal loyalty, family ties, and friendship were often paramount in the selection and placement of cadres. There were serious efforts and a discrepancy between word and deed in the style of leadership of economic and cultural building.

Relying on the CPSU Central Committee's support and great trust and taking guidance from Comrade K.U. Chernenko's instructions, the republic's party organization investigated with the utmost scrupulousness the causes of these negative phenomena, which are alien to our society, waged an uncompromising struggle against them, and continues to do so. The republic's communists and all its working people fully and resolutely supported the party's firm course toward the strictest observance of socialist order.

The Soviets and the 100,000-strong army of people's deputies joined actively in this great work. Soviets at all levels, their standing commissions, and groups of deputies analyzed in depth the situation on a number of key questions of the republic's life. For example, questions such as the strict observance of the principles of social justice, the fundamental improvement of Soviets' activity in combating crime and other breaches of the law, ensuring a universally thrifty attitude to material and technical resources and preventing

squandering and embezzlement, satisfying the population's demand for high-quality goods, and many other equally topical problems were examined.

At the same time the soviets not only gave a principled assessment of the existing shortcomings and negative phenomena but also adopted effective measures designed to resolutely and rapidly eradicate them.

In particular, we are resolutely getting rid of economic leaders who are unwilling or unable to protect and increase the people's property and especially those who have discredited themselves by distorting data, engaging in window-dressing, or using the trust and great rights accorded to them for selfish purposes. So far about 170 people have been dismissed from leading positions in the republic.

To our great misfortune we also had deputies who regarded their mandate merely as a form of personal honor and privilege rather than as a sign of trust and a lofty duty. What is worse, there were also those who chose to abuse their position. Soviets and voters gave those deputies a principled assessment befitting their conduct. A total of 9 Supreme Soviet deputies and 60 local soviet deputies were recalled. This is a very serious lesson.

The republic's party organization and the soviets are now concerned to ensure that everyone of our deputies bears the title of people's elected representative with honor. We should always bear in mind that the population often judges all soviet state policy in terms of the standard of work of soviets and their deputies. Guided by the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee April (1984) Plenum, the republic's soviets are steadily improving all aspects of their multifaceted activity.

Comrade Deputies! Our republic's working people are profoundly aware that their main duty to the country has always been to comprehensively increase cotton production and, at the same time, to substantially improve cotton quality. This year's cotton harvest is drawing to a close. The state has already received 5.25 million metric tons of "white gold," including 437,000 metric tons of the most valuable fine-fiber grades, for which the procurement plan has been overfulfilled. Workers in Uzbekistan's agroindustrial complex have adopted a firm course aimed at increasing fiber production. An analysis of the raw cotton produced confirms that this goal is being achieved.

When examining the main problems facing the comprehensive development of the Uzbek economy in 1985 and the long term, you cannot help noticing that the average annual rate of population growth in Uzbekistan between 1971 and 1984 was three times higher than the corresponding national average indicator.

In the near future it is expected that about one-half of the increase in labor resources across the country as a whole will come from Uzbekistan. This means that the full and efficient use of these resources is a question of great social and economic significance and must be resolved from the viewpoint of the state's interests as a whole. We would ask the appropriate union bodies to pay greater attention to this problem.

The problem of the preferential development of the republic's energy base is very closely linked with the solution of the fundamental questions of making better use of its labor and natural resources. Considerable successes have been achieved in this sphere. But according to the estimated figures, by 1990 the Central Asian combined energy system could have a shortfall of billions of kilowatt-hours of electricity with, possibly, a considerable decline in the rate of growth of global social product as a result. We would ask the USSR Gosplan and the Ministry of Power and Electrification to examine as a matter of urgency the question of accelerating the construction of the Talimardzhan Gres and increase the capital investments on this project to R20 million no later than 1985.

To implement the 26th CPSU Congress directives, the republic has formulated a package of measures for the preferential development of the gas industry there. These measures assign an important place to the construction of the Shurtan gas and chemicals complex, whose first stage is due to be commissioned during the 12th 5-Year Plan.

In view of the national economic importance of this complex and the opinion of a USSR Gosplan specialist commission that the ethane-rich gas of the Shurtan complex is a valuable raw material for the chemical industry which could, in a number of cases, replace scarce oil and petroleum products in the industry's raw materials balance, it would seem expedient to settle the questions involved in planning the Shurgan gas and chemicals complex no later than 1985 so as to begin construction by 1986.

Now for another question. We have submitted a number of proposals regarding procurement figures for cotton and other agricultural output with the aim of further increasing the efficiency of the republic's agricultural production. We would ask the USSR Government to examine these proposals.

CSO: 1830/276

REGIONAL

ARMENIAN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION CONVENES

GF261702 Yerevan SOVETAKAN AYASTAN in Armenian 29 Dec 84 p 2

[Excerpts] During its recent session, the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers Agro-Industrial Complex Affairs Commission reviewed questions pertaining to the improvement of the republic's land recultivation work. The commission noted that regardless of the measures taken, a number of ministries and departments are continuing to carry out recultivation work on depleted land at an insufficient rate. The recultivation of the sand deposits in Ararat field allocated for industrial processing are not being assimilated quickly.

In the adopted decision the commission urged the responsible ministries, associations, and organizations to take additional measures to ensure the recultivation of the depleted lands with the volumes limited for the 11th 5-Year Plan period. For this purpose the republic's Agriculture Ministry together with the associated rayon soviets executive committees should initiate strict supervision toward the fulfillment of the above mentioned tasks.

The Armenian SSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment to Agriculture has been urged to ensure the recultivation work of the depleted lands through the means and allowances of the ministries, administrations and organizations that do not have the possibilities to recultivate their lands through individual efforts.

The Armenian SSR Agriculture Ministry together with the rayon agro-industrial associations councils should pay particular attention to the implementation of measures to protect livestock from diseases in time and strengthen the struggle to prevent diseases. It is necessary to organize specialized help for the mechanical and thermal processing of fodder, the use of vitamin grass and the conversion of reeds into silage and to ensure the widespread use of the bonus plan for the workers in livestock breeding sector.

The Armenian SSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment to Agriculture should raise the level of mechanization at kolkhozes and sovkhoses, aid in the repair of equipment and improve the standard of material and technical supply and technical services to farms.

Listening to a question on the fuller satisfaction of the population's need for rye bread, the commission noted that currently the bread prepared from

rye flour in the republic is in limited quantities. The basic reason is that the Armenian SSR Trade and Food Industries Ministries and the Armenian Union of Consumers Societies are not sufficiently increasing production and sales of rye bread.

The commission urged the Food Industry Ministry and the Ministries of Trade and Procurements and the Armenian Union of Consumers Societies to take steps to increase the production of rye bread, to improve its quality and assortment, to organize its production in the other cities of the republic starting in 1985, and to fully satisfy the population's demand for it. It is necessary to organize the supply of rye flour to the retail sector in 1985.

The commission also reviewed the activities of other sectors of the republic's agro-industrial complex and adopted corresponding decisions aimed at the successful realization of the food program.

CSO: 1838/35

REGIONAL

ARMENIAN CP HOLDS PARTY ORGANIZATIONS SEMINAR

GF261730 Yerevan SOVETAKAN AYASTAN in Armenian 22 Dec 84 p 1

[Excerpts] The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee held a seminar on 20-21 December dedicated to the tasks of the republic's party organizations toward the realization of the Central Committee decision on "the course of fulfillment of June 1983 CPSU Central Committee decisions by the Armenian SSR party organization," the recommendations of the all-union scientific conference on "the perfection of developed socialism and party's ideological work in light of the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee decisions," and the instructions of Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

It was attended by first secretaries of city and rayon party committees; secretaries of ideological departments; leaders of ministries, departments and production associations; soviet, trade unions and komsomol officials; leaders of industrial, agricultural, construction and transport enterprises and organizations and secretaries of their primary party organizations and representatives of mass-information and propaganda means.

The conference was opened by K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee.

The seminar was attended by Comrades B.Y. Sarkisov, F.T. Sarkisyan, G.N. Andreyev, V.B. Galumyan, G.G. Gambaryan, G.M. Voskanyan, D.A. Arutyunyan, G.A. Martirosyan, M.A. Yuzbashyan, and L.G. Saakyan.

CSO: 1838/35

REGIONAL

SHEVARDNADZE HIGHLIGHTS TASKS OF LIGHT INDUSTRY

PM241401 [Editorial Report] Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 18 January 1985 carries on page 1 a GruzINFORM report entitled "Light Industry: The Ingredients of Growth" on a meeting at the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee on an unspecified date to discuss Georgian light industry's development prospects and problems. The report includes the following account of a speech at the meeting by E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee:

"In his speech Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze focused on unresolved problems and noted in particular that Georgian light industry has many unexplored reserves which must be brought into play immediately.

"It was noted that the sector's working people face a big and highly crucial task: that of making every effort to fulfill unconditionally the year's targets and confidently scale new heights. It is a matter of honor and prestige for all working people in the sector.

"It was pointed out that capacities are being assimilated too slowly at a whole range of existing and newly created production facilities. This applies primarily to such major enterprises as the Gori Cotton Fabric Production Association, the Tskhinvali Knitted Underwear Factory, and also the Sachkhere Cotton Spinning Mill. These collectives absolutely must attain the targets laid down for them by the current 5-year plan. To this end the republic's Council of Ministers and Gosplan, in conjunction with the relevant union bodies, must carry out a detailed study of the state of affairs and ensure that the enterprises are provided with the requisite raw materials and supplies.

"The collective of the 'Sovietskaya Gruzija' worsted combine in Tbilisi also needs considerable assistance. It has accumulated a large amount of unsold output, which is having an adverse effect on the enterprise's financial and economic activity. Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Secretary S.Ye. Khabeishvili has been instructed to evaluate the work on a monthly basis and give the combine leadership the requisite timely assistance in surmounting the difficulties.

"The leadership of the republic's Council of Ministers (First Deputy Chairman N.A. Chitanava) was told to examine regularly the sector's financial situation and take the necessary steps to improve it.

"Special attention should be paid to the state of affairs at light industry construction projects. Although the construction workers coped successfully with last year's targets and have made a good start on the final year of the 11th 5-Year Plan, they are faced with difficult tasks. It is a matter of honor for construction workers and clients to commission the first phase of the Tbilisi Silk Production Association ahead of schedule, by the start of the 27th Party Congress.

"The improvement of the social and consumer service conditions of the sector's working people is of great importance, Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze stressed. In particular, it is necessary to accelerate the construction of the Gori Cotton Production Association Club and pay more attention to housing construction.

"The improvement of the style and methods of economic leadership of the republic's light industry has a considerable part to play in further improving the sector's work. Production commanders must skillfully, creatively, and efficiently reorganize work in line with today's demands and pay special attention to updating output and expanding the range of articles which are in short supply in stores. It is necessary to ensure a substantial improvement in the quality of goods. Many articles still have their quality rating lowered because of violations of production discipline, the unsatisfactory condition of equipment, or poor-quality raw materials. In fact, criteria such as fashion and taste are now coming to the fore. For that reason it is necessary to increase the output of index articles and particularly fashionable goods as well. In this connection the republic's State Committee for Prices should operate more flexibly and effectively.

"There is serious concern about labor organization in the sector. Team forms and methods of work are not being developed sufficiently. A more determined effort is needed to introduce financial autonomy in team and shop links and to increase working people's interest in the end results of their activity.

"Close partnership between science and production is of paramount importance today. The Tbilisi Knitted Underwear Production Association has substantial experience of cooperation with the Georgian Scientific Research Institute of the Textile Industry. They have jointly set up creative teams to introduce technical and technological innovations into production as quickly as possible. The new method of work has substantially speeded up new articles' passage from production to store. But these are only the first steps. Scientists and specialists must help the sector's labor collectives to introduce economic experiments and new forms and methods of work. Science has a great part to play in the current retooling and production modernization at light industry enterprises. It should be organized in such a way that the updated associations, combines, and factories immediately increase output and do not stand idle because of defects and unfinished jobs.

"The Georgian SSR Light Industry Ministry must also further develop cooperation with firms in the fraternal countries within the framework of socialist integration. A certain amount of experience has been accumulated in this area, too. Many of the sector's production facilities, in particular, the Tskhneti Sewn Goods Factory, the Tbilisi Sewn Goods Factory named for Ordzhonikidze

"Isani" Footwear Production Association already have been and will continue to be supplied with modern equipment made in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and other states.

"The republic's light industry is on the upswing. Successfully fulfilling the plan for this year and the 5-year plan as a whole for the production of consumer goods means ensuring fuller satisfaction of working people's growing material and spiritual requirements. This is a very important matter for the sector's working people themselves and for the republic's party organizations," it was said at the meeting.

"Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze positively rated the work of the republic's light industry working people and expressed confidence that they will not yield the ground they have gained, will seek out new reserves and use them in production, and in the very near future will surmount the difficulties, eliminate certain shortcomings in their work, and successfully complete the present year of the 11th 5-Year Plan.

"The meeting was attended by Comrades S.Ye. Khabeishvili, N.A. Chitanava, and Z.A. Chdheidze, and by O.M. Ivanashvili, chief of Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Light Industry and Consumer Goods Section."

CSO: 1830/280

REGIONAL

USMANKHODZHAYEV AT UZBEK PEOPLE'S CONTROL AKTIV MEETING

[Editorial Report] Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 25 January 1985 carries on page 1 an 800-word UzTAG article titled "The Lofty Duty of the People's Scouts." In Tashkent on 24 January a meeting of the Uzbek People's Control aktiv was addressed by Deputy Chairman of the USSR Committee of People's Control V.I. Manayev, First Secretary of the Uzbek CP Central Committee I.B. Usmankhodzhayev, and Chairman of the People's Control Committee of the Uzbek SSR V.A. Khaydurov.

Discussion at the meeting centered around the remarks of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee K.U. Chernenko at the All-Union People's Control Conference as well as the decisions of the 16th Plenum of the Uzbek CP Central Committee with respect to the struggle against eyewash, deceiving the government, bribe-taking, speculation, squandering, embezzlement of socialist property, and various abuses.

Positive achievements of the more than 450,000 people's control workers in the republic were mentioned in the article. "Nonetheless, it was noted that the work of the republic people's control organs still does not meet the requirements outlined at the All-Union People's Control Conference and the 16th Plenum of the Uzbek CP Central Committee. Serious criticism was directed at the people's control committees of the Karakalpak ASSR, the Kashkadarya, Tashkent, Surkhandarya oblasts, and a number of city and rayon committees which had allowed key questions of control over production management and prevention of negative phenomena to go unsupervised.

The number of inspections conducted by republic organs of people's control is still insufficient, says the article, to provide for an in-depth economic analysis of production activity that would uncover the main points to consider in bringing about growth in production of labor, best use of available capacities, and maximize discipline in execution.

Recommendations made to the aktivs at the meeting involved improvement in the areas of quantity and quality of construction of living space, schools, preschools, medical institutions, and other projects of social and cultural significance; realization of the Food Program; the Long-Term Development Program outlined at the October (1984) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee on developing irrigation, plan fulfillment in cotton growing and animal husbandry, and use of the material and technical resources budgeted for agricultural development.

CSO: 1830/266

REGIONAL

USMANKHODZHAYEV AT UZBEK COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION

[Editorial Report] Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 27 January 1985 carries on page 2 a 400-word unsigned article titled "In the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR" in which mention is made of the appearance at the Council's 26 January session of Uzbek CP Central Committee First Secretary I.B. Usmankhodzhayev. In addition to the achievements of 1984, it was observed that there are still serious shortcomings and shortfalls in the work of many ministries and departments, in the work of the Karakalpak ASSR, in the work of the oblast executive committees and of the Tashkent city executive committee. Plans were not fulfilled in introducing fixed capital, in the assimilation of capital investments, in capital repairs, and in commissioning of living space. Production was lagging in the purchase of cotton, grain, and a number of other plant and animal husbandry products. The financial situation of many enterprises remains serious; plans for retail commerce and domestic services were unfulfilled; and violations of state, production, and labor discipline were not being quickly eliminated, according to the article. "The primary tasks are still the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, the rational operation of the economy, consequential and unrelenting work in conserving economic, material, financial and other resources, the universal tightening of discipline and order, raising labor productivity, producing more consumer goods, lowering costs and improving the quality of production, introducing and developing production capacities, fulfilling delivery agreements, conducting the wintering of cattle in an organized manner, and exemplary preparations for spring."

CSO: 1830/266

REGIONAL

USMANKHODZHAYEV SPEAKS TO LABOR UNION CONFERENCE

[Editorial Report] Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 27 January 1985 carries on page 1 a 300-word UzTAG article titled "Raising the Level of Labor Union Work." On 26 January in Tashkent there was a Tashkent Oblast interunion election conference for labor union members. Participants were Ye.K. Plaksin, responsible worker of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions; N.M. Makhmudova, chairman of the Uzbek Council of Labor Unions; U.U. Umarov, first secretary of the Tashkent gorkom; T.A. Alimov, first secretary of the Tashkent Oblast party committee. First Secretary of the Uzbek CP Central Committee I.B. Usmankhodzhayev made a presentation to the conference.

Recent work of the Uzbek labor union organizations was analyzed and it was observed that this work still does not meet the requirements as outlined by the 26th Party Congress and subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and by the directions and recommendations of comrade K.U. Chernenko. In particular criticism was directed at lack of energetic work in intensifying production, promoting discipline, spreading leading work experience, eliminating formalism, developing a communist relation to quality of production and to careful use of available resources and materials, insufficient attention to workers' health, social welfare, leisure, and working conditions.

CSO: 1830/266

REGIONAL

ARMENIA COMMISSIONS CONSIDER 1985 SOCIOECONOMIC PLAN

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 23 Nov 84 p 1

[ARMENPRESS article: "In the Permanent Commissions of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] In connection with the forthcoming session of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet, the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium entrusted the Planning and Budget and other permanent commissions of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet to make a preliminary examination of the State plan for economic and social development of the Armenian SSR for 1985, the course of the plan fulfillment for 1984, the Armenian SSR State Budget for 1985, the accounting for the fulfillment of the State budget for 1983, and to prepare summaries on these.

The Presidium recommended that the permanent commissions, guided by the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, concentrate their attention on issues relating to raising the effectiveness of social production and to accelerate the rate of its development by accelerating scientific and technical progress, improved utilization of the available production potential, broader involvement of the reserves and capacities in all branches of the people's economy of the republic, further industrialization of construction, guarantee tasks dealing with bringing on-stream production capacities, providing housing, social service and cultural facilities, increasing the production of food and agricultural raw materials through the intensification of agriculture, maximizing economy in labor material, fuel-energy and financial resources, expanding the production and improving the quality of mass consumption goods, developing the services network for the population, and optimizing the balance of plans.

On 15 November, a session of the Planning and Budget Commission, together with the representatives of other permanent commissions at the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet, took place; it was conducted by R. P. Amiryan, chairman of the Planning and Budget Commission.

G. S. Sagoyan, the deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers and the chairman of the Armenian SSR Gosplan, presented a report on the State plan for economic and social development of the Armenian SSR for 1985 and the course of the plan fulfillment for 1984.

The participants heard a report by Dzh. A. Dzhanoyan, the Armenian SSR minister of finance, which deals with the tentative Armenian SSR State Budget for 1985 and the fulfillment of the budget for 1983.

In connection with the presentation by the Chairman of the Armenian SSR Planning and Budget Commission, the order and the schedule of the hearings of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet permanent commissions concerning the tentative plan and budget for 1985 were set, as well as the course of the plan fulfillment in 1984, and the accounting report dealing with the budget fulfillment in 1983.

B. E. Sarkisov, the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet chairman, and M. M. Bakhchinyan, the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet secretary, participated in the session.

12404

CSO: 1830/171

REGIONAL

CONFERENCE IN ARMENIA ON IMPROVING RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEACHING

[Editorial Report] Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian on 4 January 1985 carries a 700-word editorial by B. M. Mkrtchyan, editor of Yerevan KOMMUNIST, entitled "Improving Russian Language Teaching." The occasion was a conference of all Armenian educators responsible for teaching the Russian language. The theme of the conference was "ways of improving the instruction and communist education of those participating in the learning of Russian language and literature...." The Armenia Minister of Education, S. Akhumyan, stressed that fluent Russian should be the norm for all Armenian students in general education and trade schools. Russian as a "working" language should be equivalent to Armenian, he stressed. Speakers at the conference discussed theory and methodology of Russian teaching in the republic, and analyzed the reasons for the "shortcomings and omissions" in learning Russian in the republic's high schools and trade schools.

MOLDAVIAN CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL EXPELLED FROM PARTY

[Editorial Report] Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian on 16 January 1985 carries on page 1 a 900-word report on a regular meeting of the MSSR CP Central Committee Buro. While the chief topic on the agenda was preparations in Drokiyevskiy Rayon for elections to the Supreme Soviet, the Buro also examined "abuses and violations of state discipline" committed by republic garage construction cooperatives in building private garages for individuals not authorized to receive them, including some who didn't own cars, at the expense of plan objectives. For these abuses, I. R. Muzlayev, chairman of the garage construction cooperative of the republic Ministry of Agriculture, was expelled from the CPSU. The Buro strongly criticized M. F. Lupashko, MSSR minister of agriculture, for lack of supervision over the garage construction cooperative and demanded that he maintain proper order in the future.

CSO: 1800/158

REGIONAL

DEATH SENTENCE GIVEN DRUNKEN MURDERER IN DNEPROPETROVSK

[Editorial Report] Kiev RADYANS'KA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian on 8 January 1985 carries on page 4 an 800-word article by I. Kashcheyev, member of the judicial college of criminal affairs of the Dnepropetrovsk Oblast court. He described the pathetic life led by the "drunkard and parasite" Oleksandr Ponomarenko. Ponomarenko was arrested several times as a juvenile, but was always let off lightly because of his mother's pleading. She eventually was no longer able to support him, however, and as he was unable to get work, he was forced to take to the streets. He lived in the entrance of an apartment building for awhile, ignored by militia and tenants alike, until one worker who lived there threw him out. He got drunk, took a knife, and waited for the worker's return, but ended up stabbing another worker who returned first. His crime was judged to be aggravated by intoxication and previous arrests and he was sentenced to death. Kashcheyev points out that the tragedy might have been prevented if people hadn't walked right by Ponomarenko on the streets and, especially, in the apartment complex, "trying only to get around him, not to touch or notice him." He concludes that "passing people by . . . does not always work out" and that "all citizens must combat drunkenness and parasitism."

ARMENIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RECEIVES SUPREME PATRIARCH

[Editorial Report] Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian on 18 January 1985 on page 1 carries a 100-word article entitled "Reception at the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers." The article reports that the chairman of the Armenian Council of Ministers, F. T. Sarkisyan, received the Supreme Patriarch, Catholicos of all Armenians, Bazgen 1 and a discussion was held. The reception was attended by G.I. Vartanyan, the affairs administrator of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, and A.A. Asratyan, deputy chairman of the Council for Armenian church affairs with the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers.

CSO: 1830/292

REGIONAL

UZBEK MINISTRY OF CULTURE OFFICIALS ON REPUBLIC SHORTCOMINGS

[Editorial Report] Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 29 January 1985 carries on page 1 a 300-word UzTAG article titled "Up to the Level of Lofty Demands," which describes the 28 January meeting in Tashkent of the republic aktiv of workers in the Ministry of Culture. Uzbek Minister of Culture Z.R. Rakhimbabayeva delivered a report, as did Uzbek CP Central Committee Secretary R.Kh.Abdullayeva. The article notes that, while republic culture organs have several positive accomplishments to their credit, there are still many shortcomings. Not all means are being used widely enough in training the masses. In the repertoire of republic theaters there are few works on modern themes; and the theme of the Great Patriotic War has not yet been made a leading one. This goes for the themes of heroism, courage, and the labor exploits of the Soviet people as well. Improvement is needed in the quality of stage ensembles, clubs, and parks of culture and relaxation. By no means is everything possible being done to attract a wide clientele, especially women and children, to libraries. "It is very important to improve the training of cadres in the republic's artistic institutes and to make better use of young specialists."

SHEVARDNADZE ATTENDS TBILISI SEMINAR ON ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT

PM251515 [Editorial Report] Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 16 January 1985 front-pages a 1,400-word GruzINFORM report entitled "Good Experience--A Common Resource" and published under the rubric "The Experiment: From Research to Practice." The report concerns an undated Tbilisi seminar to discuss the "large-scale economic experiment" that has been conducted in the Georgian electrical equipment industry. Claiming that the experiment has resulted in higher productivity and the fuller exploitation of reserves, the report then describes the problems "some enterprises" are having and states that the seminar participants recommended ways of eliminating the shortcomings and expressed confidence that the labor collectives would solve their problems.

The report notes that "taking part in the seminar's work were E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee," and others.

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BRIEFS

TASHKENT PLANNING CONFERENCE--A conference began in Tashkent today on the problems of regional town planning. Participating in the work of the meeting are about 200 experts from Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev, and from the Belorussian SSR, the Kazakh SSR, and other Central Asian republics. The conference will examine the work and the plans related to the (word indistinct) contemporary of dwellings and the supply of heat and (word indistinct) to them. [Text] [Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek 1300 GMT 20 Dec 84 GF]

TASHKENT OBLAST PERSONNEL CHANGE--The plenum discussed the question of organization. On the basis of a request made by Comrade Musakhanov, and due to his retirement, the plenum relieved him of his post as the first secretary of the Tashkent Oblast Party Committee. He was thanked for his productive work in the party and soviet organs. Comrade [Timur Agzamovich] Alimov, who has been working as chairman of the Tashkent Oblast Soviet Executive Committee, was appointed first secretary of the Tashkent Oblast Party Committee. Comrade Inamdzhani Usmanhodzhayev, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, addressed the plenum. [Excerpt] [Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek 1300 GMT 22 Jan 85]

UZBEKISTAN LABOR MECHANIZATION PLENUM--The tasks of the scientific and engineering-technical institutes toward further reducing the amount of manual labor at the energy and engineering-technical enterprises in the republic were discussed at a joint plenum of the Uzbek republican and Tashkent oblast administration of the Scientific and Technical Society of Energy and Electrotechnical Industry named after (Dzhanovkov) held today. The plenum approved a plan on the administration's work during 1985. [Text] [Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian 1315 GMT 19 Dec 84]

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